

Hartford

New England's Rising StarSM

SPRING 2007



Eddie A. Perez, Mayor



The Mayor's UPDATE

It brings me great pride to share with you that Hartford is safer, more financially stable, and more vibrant now than it has been – not just in years, but in decades.

Gone is the year 1994 when there were 55 homicides and the headline of the Hartford

Courant read, "Gangs and Drugs Combine for a Deadly Year in the City." Gone is the year 2000 when Governing Magazine called Hartford "Rudderless."

Today, we can write a new headline: "Crime is Down and City Government is More Accountable." The time for decline is over. Hartford is on the rise and on the brink of great things. My friends, the glass is half full and with your help and with your faith, Hartford can and will be whole again.

During my State of the City Address, I said, "¡Sí Se Puede! Yes we can! And yes we will. Together, we will be even better."

Throughout this newsletter, I will share with you many encouraging stories regarding important issues: public safety, education, and neighborhood economic development. **Also included is a section called "Good Government Listens."** I invite you to share your thoughts with me on how together we can achieve an even brighter future for Hartford.

Remember, ¡Sí Se Puede! Yes, we can and Hartford, together, yes we will.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eddie Perez".

Eddie A. Perez
Mayor



Mayor Eddie Perez and Councilman Pedro Segarra honor Sgt. Felix Ortiz at a recent ceremony.

80 MORE OFFICERS *Being Added to HPD*

Police work best when they are part of the community. That's why Mayor Perez is proposing 80 more police officers to patrol the streets of Hartford.

You'll see more of them walking the beat, riding bicycles and even riding horseback. Yes, Mayor Perez will bring back the horse division! He says, "This will make our officers more visible, more accessible and more effective."

By adding 80 more officers, the HPD will exceed the Mayor's goal of a force that is 500 men and women strong.

GETTING ILLEGAL GUNS OFF OUR STREETS!

Mayor Eddie Perez is pushing for tougher and more responsible gun laws.

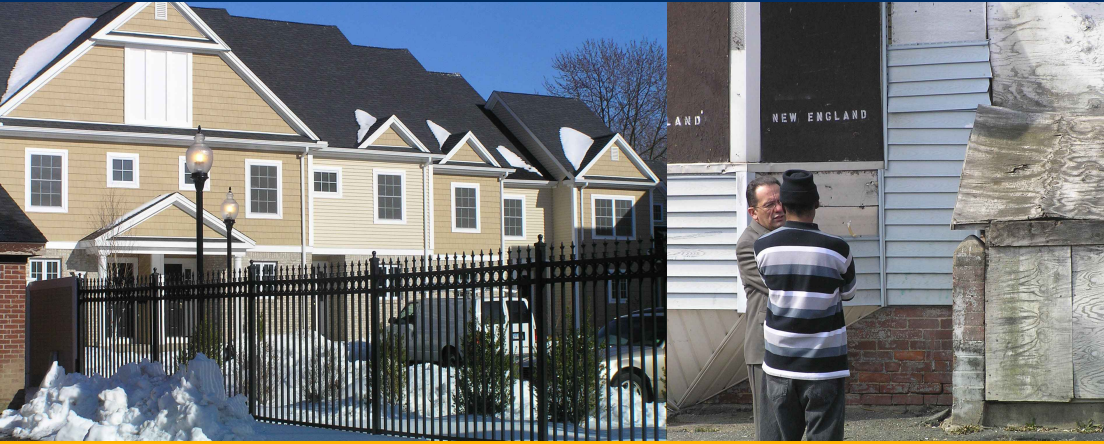
He strongly supports action on the state level led by the citizen's organization Connecticut Against Gun Violence.

However, Mayor Perez says, "The fact is Hartford can't wait. I will propose an ordinance requiring Hartford residents to report lost or stolen firearms within 72 hours. This ordinance would also enable Corporation Counsel to sue anyone, anywhere who failed to report a lost or stolen gun that is used in a felony in our city. The people of Hartford spend millions of dollars fighting gun crime and 93 percent of these weapons come from out of town. **It's time the people who buy these guns are held accountable."**

Mayor Perez, Majority Leader rjo Winch, and Police Chief Daryl Roberts listen as Rev. Henry Brown pledges support for the Connecticut Against Gun Violence campaign that asks the question, "Where did they get the gun?"



Blight Busters!



*At left, **Mayor Perez** is proud of the recent development Alden Street in the South Green neighborhood. At right, the Mayor talks to folks in the Northeast neighborhood about converting blight on Barbour Street into houses, apartments and retail!*

Mayor Perez wants to strengthen our communities through his Strong Neighborhoods Agenda. Since 2002, there's been a 55 percent reduction in the number of blighted buildings. Mayor Perez has announced the Hartford Neighborhood Development Fund. This will develop housing in areas of the city where blight has been stubborn despite the city's great transformation.

Mayor Perez says, "With Council's support, I am proposing \$50 million in capital funds, over the next five years, through the Hartford Neighborhood Development Fund. The money will leverage at least another \$100 million in private and public investment in creating new homeowners, providing quality rental units and developing new neighborhood retail. **Let's begin the next phase of Hartford's unprecedented renaissance!**"

INVESTING IN HARTFORD'S YOUTH



Mayor Perez wants to help the young people of our city make good choices in life. In the next budget, Mayor Perez is proposing to invest \$1.8 million dollars in:

1. Academic enrichment and after school activities
2. A coordinated community effort to address youth violence
3. Summer and year-round jobs for 1600 Hartford teens.

Mayor Perez says, "Parents, clergy, and teachers, you stood with me in the pews last summer during our Volunteers of Faith tour. Stand with our kids now."

*Opportunity knocks for Hartford students! **Miranda Stephenson** and **Nina To** learn how City Government works for you through their Internship Program.*



It's "Home Sweet Home" after the ribbon cutting ceremony at the New Dutch Point Colony!

DUTCH POINT COLONY *Helps Point the Way for Hartford's Future!*

Welcome home to Hartford! In less than five years, 2100 new units of housing have been built citywide—with prices ranging from affordable to luxury.

1. 34 units at Garden and Risley in the Northeast neighborhood;
2. 73 units at the new Dutch Point in Sheldon-Charter Oak (which has redefined Public Housing);
3. 23 single-family homes at Alden Street in South Green;
4. And 74 units on Zion Street in Frog Hollow – just to name a few.

This increase in residential living will help put more feet on the street, creating a more vibrant city, and making it a transportation destination! Homeownership opportunities will also increase for the people who already live here. So far, 1350 residents have made the transition from renting to owning. **Mayor Perez says, "Let's help make the American Dream come true for even more people! Together, we can do even better!"**

*Mayor Perez says, "¡Sí Se Puede!
Yes We Can Hartford! And Together, Yes We Will!"*

